

In the claims:

1. (currently amended) A connection element composed of metal and provided for a releasable connection of an electric motor with a machine or a machine part which is driven by the electric motor, the connecting element comprising at least one first abutment surface mountable on a wall of the machine or the machine part, and at least one second abutment surface fixedly connected with the electric motor, at least one of said at least one first abutment surface and said at least one second abutment surface being provided with a thin metallic hard coating applied on and non-detachably connected with said at least one abutment surface, which thin metallic hard coating is a surface treatment inseparable not a gasket attachable to and separable from said at least one abutment surface, with a thermal conductivity having a value smaller than 2 W/Km (Watt x Kelvin⁻¹ x Meter⁻¹).

2. (original) A connection element as defined in claim 1, wherein said thin metallic coating has a nitrated titanium.

3. (original) A connection element as defined in claim 1, wherein said thin connecting coating has a nitrated titanium mixed with carbon.

4. (original) A connection element as defined in claim 1, wherein

said thin metallic coating has a nitrated alloy of titanium and aluminum.

5. (original) A connection element as defined in claim 1, wherein said thin metallic coating has a chromium mixed with carbon.

6. (original) A connection element as defined in claim 1, wherein said thin metallic coating has nitrated chromium.

7. (original) A connection element as defined in claim 1, wherein said thin metallic coating has tungsten carbide.

8. (original) A connection element as defined in claim 1, wherein said thin metallic coating has tungsten mixed with carbon.

9. (currently amended) A connection element as defined in claim 1, wherein said thin metallic coating has a thickness between ~~less than~~ 1 ~~m~~ μm and 10 ~~m~~ μm.

10. (original) A connection element as defined in claim 1, wherein said first abutment surface is provided with a blind hole with an inner thread for screwing connection of the connecting element on the machine or on the machine part.

11. (original) A connection element as defined in claim 10, wherein said inner thread of said first abutment surface is provided with the thin metallic coating.

12. (original) A connection element as defined in claim 1, wherein said second abutment surface is provided with a throughgoing opening for screw connection of the electric motor with the connecting element.

13. (original) A connection element as defined in claim 12, wherein said throughgoing opening is provided with the thin metallic coating.

14. (original) A connection element as defined in claim 1; and further comprising integrated cooling conduits for circulation of cooling fluid.

15. (currently amended) A connection element composed of metal and provided for a releasable connection of an electric motor with a machine or a machine part which is driven by the electric motor, the connecting element comprising at least one first abutment surface mountable on a wall of the machine or the machine part, and at least one second abutment surface fixedly connected with the electric motor, at least one of said at least one first abutment surface and said at least one

second abutment surface being provided with a fluid-bath applied thin metallic hard coating applied on and non-detachably connected with said at least one abutment surface, which thin metallic hard coating is a surface treatment inseparable from said at least one abutment surface with a thermal conductivity having a value smaller than 2 W/Km (Watt x Kelvin⁻¹ x Meter⁻¹).

16. (previously presented) A connection element as defined in claim 1, wherein the thin metallic hard coating is also applied in threaded openings of the connection element.